

REMARKS

The claims now pending in the application are Claims 1, 3 to 11 and 20 to 28, the independent claims being Claims 1, 20 to 22 and 26. Claim 2 previously was cancelled. Claims 12 to 19 have been cancelled herein.

In the Official Action dated February 18, 2004, Claims 1 and 3 to 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,821,997 (Kawamura), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,453,071 (Ito). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection respectfully are requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The rejection of the claims over the cited art respectfully is traversed.

Each of independent Claims 1, 20 to 22 and 26 generally recites the feature of compression-encoding input image data, followed by decoding the compression-encoded image data and selectively displaying the compression-encoded/decoded image data (e.g., prior to recording the compression-encoded image data on an external recording medium); as disclosed in greater detail in the present application, the feature of (selectively) displaying the compression-encoded/decoded image data (Claims 1, 20, 22), or displaying 'difference image data' between the input image data and the compression-encoded/decoded image data (Claims 21, 26), prior to recording the compression-encoded image data, provides a significant improvement over prior art apparatuses and methods in that the operator can view and determine, with high fidelity, at the time of image capture (prior to recording), the image data that later will be retrievable from the recording media. That is, the present invention selectively displays compression-encoded/decoded image data on displaying means before the recording means records the compression encoded image data. This feature enables a user to confirm image data to be recorded before recording thereby prevents recording of the image data when its image quality is not desirable.

Applicant submits that the prior art fails to anticipate the present invention. Moreover, Applicant submits that there are differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art, such that the subject matter taken as a whole would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

The Kawamura '997 patent relates to a still image recording apparatus which selectively compresses single image information at a first compression ratio and a second compression ratio and decompresses the compressed single image information displayed before main storage. However, Applicant submits that the Kawamura '997 patent fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-described features of the present invention. Nowhere is the Kawamura '997 patent understood to disclose or suggest a composing element of display means for selectively displaying the input image data *and* the compression-encoded/decoded image data decoded by the decoding means, before the recording means records the compression encoded image data, as disclosed and claimed in the present application (Claims 1, 20, 22). As discussed above, this aspect of the present invention enables an operator to easily compare, prior to the recording process, the difference between the input image data before compression/decompression processing and the compression-encoded/decoded image data, which ultimately will be retrievable from the recording medium after compression/decompression processing.

Nor is the Kawamura '997 patent understood to disclose or suggest the composing element of displaying 'difference image data' between the input image data and the compression-encoded/decoded image data, as disclosed and claimed in the present application (Claims 21, 26). As discussed above, this aspect of the present invention also enables an operator to easily compare, prior to the recording process, the difference between the input image data before compression/decompression processing and the compression-encoded/decoded image data, which ultimately will be retrievable from the recording medium after compression/decompression processing.

The Ito '071 patent relates to a data communication apparatus, method and system and programs for data communication process stored in computer readable storage medium, and discloses a data communication apparatus that encodes information data using a predetermined and coding method, where encoded information data is transmitted isochronously with a predetermined communication cycle when the encoded method corresponds to a decoding method at an object node apparatus, and where non-encoded information data is transmitted asynchronously with the communication cycle when the encoding method does not correspond to the decoding method at the object node apparatus. However, Applicant submits that the Ito '071 patent fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-described features of the present invention. Nowhere does the Ito '071 patent disclose or suggest a composing element of display means for selectively displaying input image data and compression-encoded/decoded image data decoded by decoding means, before recording means records the compression encoded image data, as disclosed and claimed in the present application (Claims 1, 20, 22). Nor does the Ito '071 patent disclose or suggest a composing element for displaying "difference image data" between input image data and compression-encoded/decoded image data, as disclosed and claimed in the present application (Claims 21, 26). Nor is the Ito '071 patent understood to add anything to the Kawamura '997 patent that would make obvious the claimed invention.


For the above reasons, Applicant submits that independent Claims 1, 20 to 22 and 26 are allowable over the cited art.

Claims 3 to 11, 23 to 25, 27 and 28 depend from Claims 1, 22 and 26, respectively, and are believed allowable for the same reasons. Moreover, each of these dependent claims recites additional features in combination with the features of its respective base claim, and is believed allowable in its own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims respectfully is requested.

Applicant believes that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action, and submits that the application is in allowable form. Favorable consideration of the claims and passage to issue of the present application at the Examiner's earliest convenience earnestly are solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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